

Utah's Vital Statistics

Births and Deaths

2003

Utah Department of Health
Center for Health Data



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Mission Statement

The Office of Vital Records and Statistics administers the statewide system of Vital Records and Statistics by documenting and certifying the facts of births, deaths, and family formation for the legal purposes of the citizens of Utah, participates in the National Vital Statistics System, and responds to the needs of health programs, health care providers, businesses, researchers, educational institutions and the Utah public for data and statistical information.

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PREFACE

This report contains data on births and deaths received by the Office of Vital Records and Statistics, Utah Department of Health, for the year 2003. It serves to make commonly used vital records data available to health programs, health care providers, businesses, researchers, educational institutions and the Utah public. Data are presented for the state, the local health districts, and the counties. Provisional marriage and divorce statistics are provided as totals in the Summary section of this report and another report of this office treats them more extensively.

The Summary section of this report contains current annual and historical tables which provide trends in births, deaths and populations for the state. This is followed by a section of reference tables with more detailed information about births and deaths for the current data year. The selected causes of deaths in Tables A39 and A47 include the October 2002 updated ICD-10 “*U” codes for terrorism deaths. The asterisk indicates a code is new since the original ICD-10 list was published. These new codes were added by the National Center for Health Statistics for data year 2001 and by the World Health Organization for data year 2003. Following the Reference section is Appendix A which provides technical notes on the sources, quality and limitations of data. It also contains sample copies of the forms used for collecting the vital records data. Appendix B, which contains life tables, is added for the sixth time in this series.

International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision (ICD-10)

Deaths which occurred anywhere in the United States since 1999 were coded and tabulated using the World Health Organization (WHO) tenth revision of the International Classification of Diseases. The ninth revision of the ICD was first used to classify mortality in 1979 and remained in effect through 1998. The tenth revision of the ICD includes changes to coding rules, category names and ICD numbers and changes to the tabulation lists used to produce mortality statistics under ICD-10.

Differences Between ICD-9 and ICD-10

The ICD is changed periodically because of the need to stay abreast of medical advances in disease nomenclature and etiology. As with previous revisions of the ICD, the change to the tenth revision resulted in a much more detailed classification, about 8,000 categories compared with about 4,000 categories in the ninth revision. ICD-10 uses 4-digit alphanumeric codes compared with 4-digit numeric codes in ICD-9. The alphanumeric ICD-10 codes that make up the most common causes of mortality, begin in Table A39a of this publication.

Discontinuities in Time Series

Each revision of the ICD has caused discontinuities in trend data. Many new categories for cause of death exist in ICD-10 and some categories from ICD-9 were eliminated. More significantly, mortality rates due to certain causes changed sharply, simply as a result of revisions to the classification system. The effect of discontinuities in mortality trends should be dealt with in mortality analysis by the application of Comparability Ratios to adjust earlier cause-specific mortality rates to be consistent with cause specific mortality rates beginning with data year 1999. Comparability Ratios were derived from the analysis of a large sample of death certificates that were double-coded by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), first using ICD-9, then again using ICD-10. Comparability Ratios for the 113 causes of death which appear in Tables A39a and A40 of this publication appear on the Office of Vital Records and Statistics web-site.

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